



U.S. Department of Justice

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News Release

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, announce the guilty plea of Hans Gouw and Harjanto Komala to charges of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. It was further announced that Hans Gouw also pled to charges of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud; conspiracy to commit identification document fraud; and money laundering.

Pursuant to their plea agreements, Hans Gouw and Harjanto Komala admitted that they sought to recruit young women, ages 16 to 23, to come to the United States to work as striptease dancers and prostitutes. Once in the United States, the women were to work for Gouw for a minimum of one year. To ensure that the women did not leave his employment prematurely, Gouw planned to confiscate their passports and to hire a person to monitor the women at work and while residing in a common house under his control.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This is a major step in our ongoing "Operation Jakarta". Gouw is the ringleader of a "one-stop shop" for a vast number of fraudulent government benefit and identification documents. In addition to the extensive document fraud scheme in this case, the defendants also attempted to exploit vulnerable teenage females by bringing them to the United States for sexual activity. This type of human trafficking is the most reprehensible type of criminal conduct."

Mr. Acosta stated: "Trafficking in persons for sexual purposes is a debased and degrading practice, which must be stopped. The Department is committed to eradicating this evil."

Ms. Marcy Forman, Director of Investigations for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said: "We're seeing more and more of these type cases every day. Every time someone attempts to obtain benefits by deception, it degrades the entire immigration system because fraudulent documents present risks--the risk that criminals will use those documents to further criminal schemes and the risk to our national security."

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As part of their plan, Komala identified young women in Indonesia in their teens and twenties, including a girl as young as fifteen years. Komala sent photographs of each girl he recruited to Gouw along with information about their age, height, and weight. Gouw, in turn, directed an Indonesian associate to interview some of the young women identified by Komala. With Komala's assistance, the associate interviewed several women in Jakarta to assess their suitability for nude striptease and prostitution. During the interviews, Gouw's employee explained to the women the nature of the work to be performed in the United States and assessed the women's physical beauty.

Under his plea agreement, Gouw also admitted preparing and filing fraudulent asylum applications and labor certification applications on behalf of Indonesians living throughout the United States. The asylum applications contained false accounts of persecution and false Indonesian documents, including baptismal and birth certificates. The labor certification applications contained false job offers and false descriptions of the applicant's work history. Gouw further acknowledged assisting Indonesian immigrants from other states to obtain Virginia identification cards and driver's licenses. He did so by falsely certifying on Virginia DMV forms that the Indonesians lived in Virginia when in fact they lived in states such as California and Pennsylvania.

The charges against Gouw and Komala stem from a nearly two-year investigation into the illegal practices of Indonesian immigration brokers and consultants operating in Northern Virginia and Maryland. This investigation led to charges against twenty-seven people, including Gouw and Komala. Of these twenty-seven, nineteen have pleaded guilty, seven are fugitives, and one awaits trial.

The twenty-seven defendants and the status of their cases are as follows:

- 1) Hans Gouw, convicted of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud, conspiracy to commit identification document fraud, conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, and money laundering;
- 2) Harjanto Komala, convicted of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking;
- 3) Isnayanti Gouw, convicted of asylum fraud and conspiracy to commit identification document fraud;
- 4) Jenny Gandasaputra, convicted of conspiracy to commit asylum fraud and conspiracy to commit identification document fraud;
- 5) Megawaty Gandasaputra, convicted of conspiracy to commit asylum fraud, conspiracy to commit identification document fraud, and conspiracy to commit money laundering;
- 6) Johnson Aliffin, convicted of conspiracy to commit asylum fraud;
- 7) Surya Halim, convicted of asylum fraud;
- 8) Willy Irsan, convicted of conspiracy to commit asylum fraud;
- 9) Silvy Karageorge, convicted of asylum fraud;

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- 10) Hanny Kembuan, convicted of asylum fraud;
- 11) Nany Kumala, convicted of conspiracy to commit asylum and identification document fraud;
- 12) Lestari Nugroho, convicted of asylum fraud;
- 13) Achnita Supomo, convicted of asylum fraud;
- 14) Danny Susanto, convicted of conspiracy to commit asylum fraud;
- 15) Herman Tanudjaja, convicted of conspiracy to commit identification document fraud;
- 16) Sari Tanudjaya, convicted of conspiracy to commit identification document fraud;
- 17) Johannis Ticoalu, convicted of conspiracy to commit identification document fraud;
- 18) Albert Warong, convicted of conspiracy to commit identification document fraud;
- 19) Michael Wright, convicted of labor certification fraud;
- 20) Joandi Gani, pending trial on a charge of labor certification fraud;
- 21) Ratna Hartanto, fugitive;
- 22) Henry Lee, fugitive;
- 23) Raymond Marschall, fugitive;
- 24) Irawan Muljadi, fugitive;
- 25) Brigitta Parera, aalso known as Maria Yohana, fugitive;
- 26) Rosita Setyawati, fugitive; and
- 27) Herlina Suherman, fugitive.

Gouw will be sentenced before the Honorable Judge Leonie M. Brinkema on July 22, 2005. Komala will be sentenced before Judge Brinkema on July 8, 2005.

The investigation into the defendants' activities was conducted by a task force of federal and state law enforcement agencies. The participating agencies included the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Department of Homeland Security); Fairfax County Police Department; Diplomatic Security Service (Department of State); Department of Labor; Internal Revenue Service (Department of Treasury); Social Security Administration; Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles; United States Postal Inspection Service; U.S. Secret Service (Department of Homeland Security); and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The task force received important assistance from several other agencies including the Office of Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations within Citizenship and Immigration Services (Department of Homeland Security); the Executive Office for Immigration Review (Department of Justice); the Virginia Employment Commission; and the Employment and Training Administration (Department of Labor).

Assistant United States Attorneys John Morton, Michael Rich, Rebeca Bellows, and David Laufman, and Special Assistant United States Attorney Beth Gibson prosecuted the cases for the government.

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